

# TONY TO THE RESCUE

## AGAIN!

### Opportunist Goals Give Wanderers Lucky Points

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Hitchin Town 1

**I**T was salute again at Loakes Park on Saturday to Tony Horseman, the wiry little man with a nose for goals whom the international selectors continue to ignore.

Again the Wanderers had Tony largely to thank for the two points to maintain their challenge to Sutton United's Isthmian League leadership. His almost uncanny opportunism snatched a couple of goals when frustration was corroding the Wanderers' resolution. And it afforded the brightest feature for the home crowd who had many misgivings in an uninspiring game about their side's ability to beat a surprisingly tough and resourceful Hitchin Town.

#### MISSING CHANCES

Wycombe indeed were lucky to collect both points in a game of missed chances and forward failure.

Vastly improved Hitchin adopted an unorthodox 4-3-3 formation which often seemed to confuse the Wycombe men. It certainly gave the visitors a powerful defence-in-depth—and special attention for Len Worley and Tony Horseman.

Hitchin deputised to their No. 11 Clyde Roberts the top job of looking after Horseman. He pursued him relentlessly throughout the first half—but one chance presented itself to the Wycombe inside-left. And once is enough for Tony. He promptly seized on a loose ball from a defensive slip, after 25 minutes, to put the Wanderers ahead.

#### "A SITTER"

With their link men concentrating more on defence, Hitchin had fewer attacks than Wycombe in the first half but Gill, Desmond and Waldock always looked dangerous when they did get away, and Waldock had the gall of missing the easiest chance of the game only a few minutes after Horseman's first.

Reserve Stuart Thompson, coming in at left-half, had a busy time against a six-foot opponent and looked a little out of his depth. Neither he nor Gale were happy in unfamiliar positions.

Hitchin looked a rejuvenated team in the second half, with their middle men adopting a more aggressive attacking role, and the home goal had a series of narrow escapes before centre-forward Danny Desmond

equalised five minutes after the restart.

#### RECOVERY

Their recovery at last injected some life into a game which appeared to be dying of boredom. The faces of the Wycombe fans lengthened as Hitchin warmed to their work. And it looked odds on a second Hitchin goal until two quick blows changed the pattern of play again.

First Hitchin lost Roberts, taken off with a kick on the thigh and replaced almost at once by substitute Norman Church. Then their No. 2, John Capeling, was carried off with an ankle injury.

He returned ten minutes later to limp along the wing but the impetus had gone from the visitors' rally and Wycombe gradually regained the initiative, attacking persistently through Worley and Merrick, but rarely looking likely to beat the stubborn Hitchin defence.

#### MATCH WINNER

Horseman had lost his original shadow but he still had close attention from the rest of the defence. But not close enough. Hitchin made another mistake, and match-winner Tony pounced on a partial clearance to beat goalkeeper Turner a second time as he advanced to cover.

Diehard Hitchin by no means accepted this blow, 15 minutes before the end, as the end of their hopes. They were still tearing away at a harassed home defence when the final whistle gave the Wanderers a somewhat lucky victory.

Wycombe Wanderers—J. Maskell; I. Rundle, C. Gale; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, S. Thompson; L. Worley, K. Samuels, V. Busby, A. Horseman, L. Merrick.

Hitchin Town—D. Turner; J. Capeling, D. Gibbs, J. Brookes, S. McLean, R. Barton, B. Gill, T. Waldock, D. Desmond, A. Frost, C. Roberts.

#### Wycombe 2 Hitchin 1

WYCOMBE HAD record-breaking marksman Tony Horseman to thank for keeping them at the top of the Isthmian League table.

Horseman, who has established a club record by scoring more than 50 goals by February, pounced on a mistake by the Hitchin defence to put Wycombe ahead after 25 minutes.

Hitchin hit back with tremendous spirit in the second half and centre forward Desmond scored the equaliser five minutes after the resumption.

Hitchin lost first Roberts and then Capeling with leg injuries, and as Wycombe recovered Horseman beat goalkeeper Turner again to mark up his 55th goal of the season.